

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, August 14. 1707.

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**N**OT always to talk of foreign Wars, let us return a little, Gentlemen, and perhaps we may find some Wars broken out, that few People have heard of. I have been a long time talking of Peace, distinguishing and describing the kinds of it, shewing the Beauty of Peace on one Hand, and the Mischiefs of our Breaches on the other— And thus I have been talking, till you are tyred of the Tale ; and one says, there's no need on't, another says I say too much of it, and a third Party says, they don't desire it—And amongst you all, I have had so many snarling, slighting, and rejecting the Proposal, that I have laid aside the Subject for some time.

And now, Gentlemen, you shall see some of the Follies of Party-Strife, you shall see the Beauty of Contention, the Excellency

of falling out among your selves ; and as any body likes the Picture, they may take up the Cause, and let us see all the extraordinary Benefits of it to the World.

I cannot but observe here, the wonderful Variation which happens in the Opinions of Men and of Times, about this one small common, too common, and too frequent thing call'd **MOBB** ; O these things call'd Tumults, Rabbles, and Riots, are strange things, they have the oddest outside with them, of most things I have met with in the World— To Day one Party cries out of Rabbles and Tumult, and rails at a whole Party for the Extravagancies of a few ; the other Party justifies Actions from their Causes, and excuses things by Circumstances ; and great Disputes about such things have happen'd in the World ; where-

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in we always find the weakest in Power, have the worst in the Argument; in great Rabbles, the Language is Translated, and we call them just Wars; Victorious Tumult gets the Sanction of Success, and he is the sacred Prince that gets the Stamp of his Authority printed by the length of his Sword.

But to come to lesser Matters; it is one of the oddest of things in the World, to find some sort of Men talk Diametrically opposite out of the same Mouth, as if contraries espous'd in such a manner, by the same Persons or Parties, Illustrated one another.

To Day we have the Rabbles of 41 thrown in the Face of the Presbyterians, and their very Posterity branded with the Extravagancies of their Ancestors; to morrow we have the very same Party crying Huzza to the Rabble in the North, blessing and defending the Tumults against the UNION, stoning the QUEEN in the Person of Her Majesty's High Commissioner; Insulting the Government in the Representative of the Nation, the Parliament, and taking Arms, *had they dar'd to show them*, against the very Being of the Constitution.

To come from this to Ecclesiastical Affairs; O what Out-crys have been made of the Rabbles, of the Revolution, and mobbing the Episcopal Ministers subsequent hard Usage of them, Persecution and the like; all which I believe I shall have the Honour to set in a true Light, and perhaps undeceive the Age in things they have been impos'd upon on that Account— But would any body think, they that have so exclaim'd against Rabbling our Governours, resisting the Powers and the like, have preach'd up the Doctrine of Obedience for Conscience sake, and the like; should now fall into the same Crime, flye in the Face of an Establish'd Authority, Rabble and Assault the Ministers, Appointed by the Legal Authority, to settle Ministers in vacant Churches.

That Tumults and Rabbles will happen in the World, is no strange thing, and I do not make that any Argument—for Offences will come; but to see these very Tumults encourag'd, applauded, defended, and boasted of by those very People who have all along complain'd of Rabbles, and Mobbs, have appropriated them to Presbyterians, as the peculiar of the Party, and valu'd

themselves upon their constant submission to just Authority; to see these People abett the Rabble, hire Fellows to dress themselves in Womens Cloaths, to appear in it, put their Servants, and force their Tenants by Commands and Threats to joyn in them— This is a strange Metamorphosis of Circumstances, and is a wonderful Test of the sincerity of a Party of Men, who really approve or exclaim not as Actions really are in themselves, but as they serve or disserve, gratify or obstruct the Party they are embark'd in, and the Design they are driving on in the World.

We are now to furnish a fruitful Instance in the World, wherein it will appear, the Riots and Tumults; the Rabbling of Ministers, and Insulting Governments, does not all lye at the Door of the Whigs and Presbyterians, and as this is but the beginning of Discoveries, and that some yet more hidden Works of Darkness are coming to Light, which perhaps may more than surprize the World— It requires this Case to be particularly stated, and very well attested.

The Reader, to introduce this Story, is to understand, that the Town of *Dingwall*, is in the North of *Scotland*, in the Bounds of the Synod of *Ross*; that the Church being vacant of a Minister, and it being the Work of the Synod, at their General Synodical Meeting, to supply vacant Churches, they met for that End — That the Heritor or Laird, who is there as the Lord of the Manor and Patron is in *England*, had the Keys— That this Gentleman being demanded Legally to deliver them, and knowing he could not refuse, gets a Day Appointed for the Synod to meet, and by that time procur'd the Tumult following— And as there are a Cloud of Witnesses to prove the Fact, and whose Names are to be seen, and a List of them I have by me from the Original, transmitted to the Publick for Justice, so is there also full Testimony of the means used, to bring the poor People into this Mischiefs, as well by Persuasions, Promises, Threatnings, and all sorts of usual Compulsions, a thing easy enough in a Place, where the Lords have such an absolute Power over their Tenants, as is known to be in that Country.

The Matter of Fact, as transmitted from the spot, to a Person of Quality in the North, is exactly as follows:

*A Repre-*



*A Representation and Information, anent a Rabble at Dingwall, upon the eighteenth Day of June, One Thousand seven hundred and seven Years.*

**T**HE Synod of Ross and Sutherland, met at Dingwall the 28th Day of May last, where they had occasion to converse with John Bain younger, of Tullock, one of the Heritors of that Parish, and with Alexander Bain younger of Knockbain, and John Dingwall, both present Bailiffs of the said Burgh; to whom they told, That the Synod was come there, to meet about their Synodical Affairs, and were content to Commune with them anent their vacancy; and the Synod having obtain'd a Gift from the Lords of Her Majestys The faury, of their vacant Stipends, were always content with the consent of Town and Parish to dispose of these Stipends for pious uses within the Parish, providing always the Town and Parish would entertain the preaching of the Gospel among them, and call a Minister according to the present Establishment; to which young Tullock made Answer, That he was but one of the Heritors, that he expected not the Synod there that day, and therefore could make no Answer, untill the whole of the Heritors were advis'd anent this Proposal; the Bailiffs likewise gave the same Answer; whereupon the Moderator required the Bailiffs to get them the Keys of the Kirk, and peaceable access thereunto; to which the Bailiffs answer'd, That they did not know what was become of the Keys, nor could they get them that Day, wherefore Mr. Daniel Mackilgen, Minister of Kilmuireaster, took Instruments in his own Name, and all that should adhere to him, upon the Requisition and Denial of the Keys of the Kirk, in the Hands of the Clerk of the Synod which was then Constitute.

Upon Mr. Mackilgen's Instrumenting the Magistrates, John Bain younger of Tullock, made some answer thereto, which was marked by the Clerk, and it being moved, That the above Gentlemen should Subscribe his Answer, he declin'd the same, and called for a Notary Publick to Record his Answers, and the said Notary Publick coming to the Room where the Synod was, Master Daniel Mackilgen renewed his Protestation in the Notary Publicks Hands; the said John Bain upon this gave (in Face of the Synod) opprobrious Language to the said Mr. Mackilgen, by calling him a Rascal, a Lyar, and a damn'd Lyar, &c. and said, if the Synod came to trouble they might blame themselves; unto which it being reply'd, That the said Synod being protected by Law, and Her Majestys free Lieges, they dreaded no trouble unless there were a Mob, and that the Magistrates were obliged to protect them; then John Bain younger of Tullock, in a menacing way, said it may be, it may be, it may be,

thrice, there will be a Mob, whereupon Mr. Mackilgen protested, if there should be anything of a Mob, the said young Tullock should be reputed the promoter and instigator of it; and farther the said Mr. Mackilgen protested for Remedy of Law, as to the Injury and Abuse done him, by the said John Bain younger of Tullock, which Protestations he took in the Hands of the Clerk of the Synod, and all in the hands of the Notary Publick.

After all this, the abovenamed Bailiffs by the said John Bain younger of Tullock his Advice, proffered to the Synod under form of Instrument to deliver them the Keys of the Kirk of Dingwall, and give them peaceable access thereto, providing they came to that place upon the 18th of June next, wherein the Synod rested satisfied, and appointed their next meeting at Dingwall the said day; and farther the said Synod appointed Mr. John Fraser Minister of Alnes to acquaint the Laird of Kibravock, Sheriff Principal of Ross, of the abovementioned mutual Concert, 'twixt the Synod and the Magistrates of Dingwall, which was accordingly done; likewise the Synod appointed Mr. G. Munro Minister of Nigg, to acquaint my Lord Macleod who is present Provost of the said Burgh of the abovenamed appointment, but tho' the said Mr. G. Munro went to my Lord Macleod's House, and waited some time there, but he could get no access to his Lordship.

Upon the 18th Day of June, the Ministers and Elders of the Synod of Ross and Sutherland come forward, to hold their Meeting at Dingwall, and being informed upon the Road, there was a great Convocation of a mixt Multitude to oppose the Synod, they sent one of their number to know the certainty of the Information, viz. Mr. Archibald Bowies, Minister of Dornoch, who accordingly came to the Town End of Dingwall, Mr. George Fraser Merchant at London, going about his Lawful Affairs, and in his Journey that way to Inverness, went in Company with the said Mr. Bowies, and there the mixt Multitude fell upon them, beat the said Mr. Bowies Horse, offered Violence to himself, which obliged him to retire, it being the common cry amongst them, that if any Minister should attempt to come thereamong them, they should knock them down, and they laid hold on the said Mr. G. Fraser's Horse, knock'd both Horse and Rider to the effusion of his Blood having broken his Head.

But the Ministers being informed, that the Sheriff principal of Ross, had come to Dingwall that Day, they went forward to the Town End, where they saw the Bailiffs, viz. Allen, Bain younger of Knockbain, and John Dingwall.

A mixt Multitude of Men and Women being



ing gathered from all Corners to the end of the street with stones, and staves, and other killing Engines, order'd with execratory and blasphemous Oaths) the Minister to stand off, or else they would knock them all down, whereupon Mr. *Hugh Munro*, Minister at *Tain*, told the Bailiffs, that the Synod having appointed their meeting in that Town this day, upon their Faith and Promise to deliver them the Keys of their Church, and peaceable access thereto, they did accordingly come there, in order to hold the meeting, and required the Bailiffs to dispatch that mixt multitude, with Certification; to which the Bailiffs answered, That the People there Convocated, were not Inhabitants of their Town and Parish, and promised to give a List of them in, so far as they knew; whereupon the Magistrates were required to convene a Guard of the Inhabitants to protect the Ministers, to which they answered, That the number of all the penable Men in their Town would not exceed twenty, and that few of them had Arms, and therefore they refused to call for a Guard, but offer'd to go with the Ministers thro' the mixt Multitude into the Town, and partake themselves of the same Danger with the Ministers and the Elders; to which it was answered, That the People knew the Bailiffs, and the Bailiffs knew them; that their going before the Ministers through the enraged Multitude, was not a sufficient safety to the Ministers, since the Violence was only offered to, and threatned against them, and therefore that the said Bailiffs should be still liable for all Cost, Skaith and Damage, the Ministers Elders, or their Attendants should incur in the Town at that Time; upon all which Heads the said Mr. *Hugh Munro* requir'd and took Instruments in the hands of *Alex. Mackintosh* Notary Publick.

Thereafter the Sheriff Principal of *Ross*, who was in the Town, being informed that the Ministers were at the Town End, came forwards to dissipate the Mob, and meet with the Ministers at the Town End, whereupon the Ministers and Elders entered the Town, but were still assaulted by the People, throwing Stones and Staves at them as they rode along the Streets, continually pouring out their execrations and blasphemies in such a manner as the Ears of any tender hearted hearer could not but tingle; and the Ministers and Elders having come to *George Macbenzi*, Inn-keeper, in *Dingual* his House, they enter'd into a Room, leaving their Horses and Servants standing in the Close; the People continued still to insult, threaten, and beat their Servants and Horses, the Sheriff Principal came into the Room where the Ministers were, and called for the Bailiffs to deliver up the Keys, and converse

with them anent dissipating the Mob, and then *Isbel Mackay* a Scandalous Person, as being a common notorious Whore and Vagabond came into the Room, and after she had expressed her self very profoundly, she addressed all the Ministers, and told them before the Sheriff Principal and Bailiffs of the Burgh, that she came in as an Ambassador (as she worded it) that she had about 300 under her Command; most part of them Women, and the rest of them Men in Womens Cloaths, and that she and they desired us to go back, else if we should attempt to go to the Church, and preach there, that she and they would all oppose us, and that we might be all sure to be beat and knock'd down; whereupon Mr. *Hugh Munro* requir'd the Magistrates to secure her, upon which he took Instruments in the said *Alex. Mackintosh*'s Hands, Notary Publick; thereafter the Bailiffs delivered the Keys to the Sheriff Principal at his own desire, who gave it to Mr. *Walter Denoon*, Minister of *Golfpie*, and when *John Dingual* one of the Bailiffs saw it given to Mr. *Denoon*, he said that severals had their Burial Places in the Church, amongst whom he was one himself, and if he had occasion for Burying, he would break the Doors if he got not the Keys; to which some of the Ministers reply'd, that if he took the Keys and were answerable to the Synod for them, they were content he should have them, but that he plainly refused; thereafter the Sheriff Principal got the Key, and said he would give it to his Deputy for the use of the Synod.

The Ministers and Elders, with the Sheriff, considering what was meet for them to do, and finding the Tumult among the People still increasing it was thought not to be safe, for the Ministers to go to the Church to keep Synod there; therefore they resolv'd to leave the Town, and having call'd for the Magistrates, they required them to protect them the Elders and Attendants out of the Town, and accordingly having left the Room, and coming to the Street, the abovenamed *Isbel Mackay* appeared at the Head of a mixt Multitude of Men and Women, who were casting Stones and Staves at the Ministers, Elders, and Sheriff himself, while they went along the Streets, so that they beat and bled severals of the Servants of the Ministers and Elders, and some of their Stones did hit the Ministers and Elders, and the Sheriff himself, and when they came to the end of the Street to take Horses, they did violently beat some of those that attended the Ministers and Elders, and a great many of the Rabblers followed, as if they were pursuing the Ministers and their Servants, about a Mile out the Town.